

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 547
By Brooks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. James E. Hamill.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly pause to honor the memory of Dr. James E. Hamill; and

WHEREAS, Dr. James E. Hamill was one of this century's greatest Champions for Christ. He was born April 15, 1913, in Pughs Mill, Mississippi, to Mr. and Mrs. James N. Hamill, a timber contractor. His father died when young James was only six years old, and he learned early about accepting responsibility and managing in tough times; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 17, young Hamill felt a definite call from God to preach the Gospel. It was a difficult decision for him to make because he had determined to care for his widowed mother. However, as God dealt with him, he made a total commitment of his life to Christ and began to preach in that same spring of 1930; and

WHEREAS, the ministry of this young preacher-boy began inauspiciously in the little country churches near his Mississippi home. Those who knew him at that time would have never dreamed of the international influence which would result from the commitment of young Jim Hamill. God certainly had his hand in the early formation of a Champion for Christ; and

WHEREAS, his ministerial career took him into every part of the nation as an Evangelist. He preached at every type of meeting known to the Assemblies of God, including Minister's Retreats, Conventions for Youth or Sunday School, Council meetings and Seminars. He

conducted meetings in many mission fields and traveled in over 70 countries of the world, including the Soviet Union (1958) and Red China (1981); and

WHEREAS, he served in many leadership positions for the Assemblies of God, including District Assistant Superintendent, General Presbyter, District Executive Presbyter, and General Council Executive Presbyter. At various times he served on the Boards of Evangel College, Central Bible College, and the Assemblies of God Seminary; and

WHEREAS, Central Bible College awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1976; he was the only pastor to ever receive such an honor in the school's (then) 61 year history; and

WHEREAS, he served on numerous boards and committees, both religious and civic, through the years. He became a towering influence for righteousness throughout the mid-south. However, Dr. Hamill's greatest love in ministry was First Assembly in Memphis, Tennessee, which he served as Senior Pastor for thirty-seven years; and

WHEREAS, First Assembly grew from around 100 people to a membership of more than 2,000. The church became one of the great missions churches in the nation; and

WHEREAS, earlier in his career, other pastorates included Columbia, Tennessee; Hattiesburg, Mississippi; Hope, Arkansas and Okmulgee, Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, he became a pioneer in utilizing radio and television to spread the message of Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Brother Hamill never forgot his humble beginnings. He always had a place in his heart for the pastor of the smaller church and for the beginning evangelists; and

WHEREAS, he loved young people and was a popular guest every semester at Central Bible College where they named a chair for him, The James E. Hamill Chair of Pastoral Theology; and

WHEREAS, a great friend and champion for Christ slipped away from us on February 20, 1994. We will miss his wise counsel and lively sense of humor. He taught, by example,

impeccable integrity. It was known of him that he loved his Lord with all his heart; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor the memory of Dr. James E. Hamill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend our sympathy and express our condolences to Dr. Hamill's family and many friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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